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TWO DENY SEX CHARGES

Men face child prostitution allegations

By Charles Thomson

southend@yellowad.co.uk

TWO MEN have been released on bail after they appeared in court to deny child prostitution charges.

The men appeared on the same day last week at Basildon Magistrates' Court.

A court worker said the cases were connected but would be tried separately.

Steven Davis, 53, of Ruskin

Avenue, Southend, denied five charges at the court last Thursday, May 14.

They were:

- Two counts of arranging/facilitating the prostitution/involvement in pornography of a child aged 13-17.
- Controlling prostitution for gain.
- Possessing an indecent photograph of a child.
- Being concerned in the supply of a Class B drug (mephedrone).

Four of the charges related to

alleged offences in Shoeburyness, and the fifth in Chelmsford.

On the same day, Stephen Castle, 39, of Friday Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex, denied seven charges.

They were:

- Two counts of controlling a child aged 13-17 involved in prostitution/pornography.
- Controlling prostitution for gain.
- Possessing 198 indecent images of children.
- Distributing 21 indecent images

of children.

- Supplying a Class B drug (mephedrone).
- Possessing a Class B drug (mephedrone) with intent to supply.

All of the charges related to alleged offences in Shoeburyness.

Both men were released on conditional bail and told their cases would be referred to Basildon Crown Court, at a time and date to be fixed soon, for plea and case management hearings.

Moring installed as new mayor

A CHARTERED engineer has become the 95th Mayor of Southend.

After Councillor Andrew Moring was installed as the borough's first citizen for the coming year, he said he wanted to visit every primary school in Southend during his term of office.

"As a child I learned anything is possible if you work hard for it, and I want to pass this message on," he said.

"I want to work with local primary schools and would love to open up the doors of Porters, our 15th century Civic House to groups of schoolchildren to help them discover the rich history and heritage of Southend."

He added: "I am very much looking forward to the responsibility of repre-

senting the borough, meeting as many members of the local community as possible, attending a range of events and supporting my chosen charities.

"I will also support other local charities by attending their events and offer them the use of Porters, our Civic House, for fundraising activities."

Cllr Moring continued: "I am also passionate about our business community. This is the powerhouse of our town, creating employment and income which provide our prosperity and growth.

"I hope that they will give me the opportunity to help promote their businesses through the mayoralty and through events arranged jointly with

the mayor's charity committee."

The mayor, who is also a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering Technology, represents Eastwood Park Ward, and was first elected to the council in 2001.

He was a council cabinet member for six years, and served on nine council committees and working parties.

He will step aside from those duties for one year to represent the town.

Cllr Moring's wife Louise will be his mayoress. Cllr Dr Marimuthu Velmuruganl was made deputy mayor.

The mayor's charities for 2015/16 are Southend-on-Sea branch of the Samaritans and Southend Community Fund (created by Howard Briggs, Mayor in 2001/02).



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It's good to talk... and plan, and live

FAIR Havens Hospice is taking part in Dying Matters Week from May 18 to 23. With the theme Talk, Plan, Live, people are being encouraged to talk about how and where they want to die. The week also highlights the support available to patients and carers. Cindy Marsh, 40, who is being cared for by Fair Havens Hospice, shares her story.

By Pat Higgins

southend@yellowad.co.uk

CINDY was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002, aged just 28.

She underwent a mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and breast reconstruction.

In 2014, after collapsing at home, she found out the cancer had returned, spread and nothing else could be done. She has been attending Fair Havens Hospices Day Care since September 2014.

She said: "I came to Day Care for an assessment which was quite daunting and I had no idea what to expect."

"My concern was last time I was 28 and placed in groups with 80-year-olds and I said to them don't put me in a room full of old people!"

"Day Care means so much to me. Once it's over I do think, 'come on Tuesday.' I'm not wishing my life away but I do look forward to it. It's nice. I'm thought of a great deal by everyone there and we all look after each other."

"It provides symptom management, psychological support, infusions, transfusions as well as a listening ear to any problems patients may be having aside from their illness along with creative therapy sessions."

"I can be myself at Day Care because I haven't got my son Theo here, I don't have to be brave."

"I feel like we are all in the same boat – we've all been given a terminal diagnosis."

"One thing I did find hard was when people die because you get to know someone and they are there one week and you come again seven days later and they are gone."

"It makes it very real and makes me question could it be like that for me?"

"One day I'm sitting here and in seven days I could be dead. That was hard."

"I'm a doer, I'm not a 'woe is me' person. I will keep going until the end."

"I held an art auction to raise money for Fair Havens. It takes my mind off things and redirects my energy and that's what I have to do."

"It's about setting new milestones, not only do you have a sense of accomplishment but it keeps you busy."

V i s i t :
havenshospices.org.uk or call 01702 221999, for more information, and listen to Cindy speaking about what Fair Havens means to her at: <https://youtu.be/qZKjPe6HSqE>.



TALK: Cindy Marsh with son Theo and pet Peppa; (INSET) INFO: Cindy Marsh stands in the Forum this week.

Photo Mark Cleveland

➤ speedread

● **POLICE** are appealing for witnesses after a cat is believed to have been shot and suffered leg injuries.

It was let out of its home in Clifftown Parade in Westcliff, at around 6.30pm on Saturday May 2, and when it returned at 10pm, its owners noticed blood on its front leg.

They took the cat to a vet where an x-rayed showed the bone in his leg had been shattered, probably by a bullet or pellet from an air weapon.

PC Sue Hellier said: "We don't know where this incident happened, but would like to hear from anyone who heard an air gun fired, saw the injured cat or anything suspicious."

Anyone with information can contact PC Hellier at Southend on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

● **A CRACK** down on cyclists riding on pavements in Southend left 107 bikers facing possible fines or prosecution – 35 have since completed a retraining course rather than facing prosecution.

One cyclist, who had no headlamps, was also arrested after it was discovered the person wanted for theft.

Operation Bluenose was launched after residents complained to PCC Nick Alston, during a routine public meeting, claiming pedestrians faced serious injury.

● **ACTIVE Women Festival** offers the chance to take part in Zumba, Fit Steps, Yoga, Boxercise / Combat, Hula Fitness, dance fit, Circuits, Badminton, Netball and more.

Kevin Read, leisure officer for Southend Council, which funds it with Active Essex said: "All activities have experienced and friendly tutors."

There is no need to book in advance, just turn up, have fun and feel healthier, all for free.

The sessions are between 3pm and 5pm on Saturday, June 6 at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre.

Visit www.active-women.co.uk for more information.

What do you think? Write to Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Twitter: @Southend YA

VIP tickets to family seaside spectacular

THE first ever Southend-on-Sea Maritime Festival promises a weekend of free nautical fun for all the family.

And the *Yellow Advertiser* is offering you the chance to go for free with VIP tickets up for grabs.

Celebrate Southend's maritime history and heritage on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, at events that stretch a mile along the seafloor.

X Factor and I'm a Celebrity's Jake Quickenden, who performs at 3pm on the Sunday, tops a growing list of performers, acts and groups joining the event organised by Southend Borough Council. These include Jane Dolby who, fresh from the publication of her autobiography, *Song of the Sea*, will reunite with the local Fishwives Choir to perform songs that propelled them to global fame, while Cathryn Dresser, The Great British Bake Off star will be signing copies of *Let's Bake* and sharing tips.

Meet experts working on the 17th century wreck of the London - Southend's answer to the Mary Rose - and Rafal Zahorski who will update on the Bembridge, a former Leigh-on-Sea landmark now being restored in



NAUTICAL BUT NICE: The Fishwives Choir

Katowice. What's more, sand sculptor Mark Anderson will be getting creative on Three Shells Beach; Friggitt, the Vagrant's Crew and Short Drag Roger will perform both ancient and modern shanties; Adventure Island will hold a Pirate Weekend; the Boogie Beach Stage will offer children's entertainment including Punch and Judy, and leading artists will display their work during an Art on the Railings event in Royal Square and on the Pier Piazza. For more



details visit www.southend-maritimefestival.co.uk.

To win a VIP family* day out to Southend's Maritime Festival on Sunday, June 7, including meet and greets with Jake Quickenden and Cathryn Dresser, plus a signed copy of her new book, a VIP Southend Pier visit with afternoon tea, and an annual Sea-Life Adventure Aquarium pass, answer the following question.

Q: Which cookery programme did Cathryn Dresser appear in?

A: Hell's Kitchen

B: MasterChef

C: The Great British

Bake Off

To enter the competition telephone your answer A, B or C - to (0901 307 0203) along with your name, address, telephone number

and email. Alternatively text YASEA (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333. Calls cost 51p from a BT landline. Calls from other networks may vary and from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message. Lines close on Thursday, May 28.

Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Service Provider: JMedia UK Limited, SW4 7BX. Tel: 0207 720 7130.

T&Cs: *Family

equals four people of any age. Any children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by at least one adult. Prize can only be taken on Sunday, June 7.

2015. Prize is as stated and no cash alternative is available. Sea-Life Adventure Aquarium Annual Pass will be valid from Sunday 7 June for 12 months.



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Leigh: Sun-Fri (8am-11pm) and Sat (8am-6pm), Derix Healthcare Pharmacy, (opposite side of Leigh Primary Care Centre), 1065 London Rd.

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Warning over cash crisis facing police finances Council tax needs to go up to fight crime

By Charles Thomson
brentwood@yellowad.co.uk

POLICE Commissioner Nick Alston will ask the Government to scrap laws that limit council taxes.

He will lobby Westminster for the right to increase taxes across the county after warning that the Essex Police's finances were in a "perilous" situation.

He insisted tax hikes were vital for the police to maintain current success rates.

He said: "I believe Essex Police has the budget to continue to deliver professional policing throughout 2015-16, but beyond that, the funding situation is perilous."

Mr Alston warned that unless council tax contributions were raised, the force might not be able to properly investigate crimes or safeguard victims.

He said Essex Police was already on course to exceed its budget this year.

The force receives one of the smallest council tax subsidies in the UK for which Mr Alston blamed the former Essex Police Authority, which his office replaced in 2012.

He said: "I inherited from the former Essex Police Authority a



CAMPAIGN: Nick Alston wants a law change so he can raise the police portion of the council tax

precept that has been reduced to a very low level, small financial reserves – some of which were not cash-backed, a lack of investment and an apparent lack of strategic planning."

Warning of the consequences of not raising the council tax policing precept, he said: "There has been a significant increase in violent crime, and serious sexual offences reported to police have increased by almost a third.

"I am clear that this is in part

due to increased confidence among the public in reporting these crimes.

"However, if people tell Essex Police about such crimes, we must ensure the force has the resources to investigate thoroughly, work to bring the perpetrators to justice and, most importantly, safeguard victims.

"The simple truth is that the budget of Essex Police is falling further behind that of other forces year-by-year.

"I will continue to make the case with the new Government for the removal of the cap on any policing precept increase for 2016-17.

"This would enable me, as the elected Police and Crime Commissioner, to address the local council taxpayer funding shortfall and deliver firm financial foundations for Essex Police. I will be accountable for this decision and people will have the opportunity to vote at the next PCC elections.

"The feedback I have repeatedly received during my public meetings all around the county is that people are prepared to pay a little more if they feel it will fund high-quality frontline policing."

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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The building in Elmer Square, Southend, is the best community project in the East of England, and goes on to the national finals. It was shortlisted for three other awards

THE Forum in Southend - described as the jewel in the crown of the town's regeneration - has been awarded a top accolade by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and shortlisted for for another three.

The landmark building in Elmer

Square has been heralded as the East of England's best project in the community benefit category.

It was shortlisted for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism categories.

This sought-after community benefit title means it will now go forward

to the national finals of the RICS awards in October.

Stephen Boniface who chaired the RICS Awards judging panel said: "The quality of all the entries this year has been outstanding, providing the judges with a wonderful selection of

projects across the different categories.

"The RICS Awards demonstrate outstanding value whilst recognising all achievements, identifying excellence and realising the many talents of those involved in the projects." The

Forum was built by a partnership between the borough council, University of Essex and South Essex College.

In a joint statement, the partners said: "We are delighted that this ground-breaking project has been rec-

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ognised so highly by such a renowned national organisation and we feel the award is very well-deserved. national organisation and we feel the award is very well-deserved.

"The Forum daily demonstrates how it is a jewel in the crown of Southend's regeneration.

"Located in the town centre on the site of a former multi-story car park, this thriving joint public and academic library and learning hub serves the whole community – residents of all ages, visitors and students," the statement continued.

"Together they are all able to gain the benefits of all the enhanced and additional facilities yielded by the combined resources of the three institutions.

"This is why it offers such advantages to the whole borough and further afield too – clearly showing how much of a community benefit it is."

The Forum has become a focus for culture as it is home to Focal Point Gallery, and, among other activities, the Big Screen outside has introduced the chance for residents and visitors to see acclaimed live broadcasts of Royal Opera Performances.

Since it opened in September 2013, its lecture theatre has hosted many sell-out talks from a wide range of renowned speakers.



The thriving academic and public libraries were praised

College chief fears Tory funding cuts

A COLLEGE principal has warned the new Conservative government against further "damaging" cuts to post-16 education.

Centralised government funding for Further Education colleges like Seevic, located in Runnymede Chase, Benfleet, was slashed by a third following the 2010 general election.

Now principal Nick Spenceley has said: "I am deeply concerned that the administration did not signal in its pre-election literature that post-16 education would have protection from further financial cuts."

Prior to the 2015 general election the coalition government signposted its intention to cut funding for adult learning by a quarter – leading the Association of Colleges to warn that adult further education "will not exist" by 2020 if the government cuts continue.

Mr Spenceley lobbied Skills Minister Nick Boles and Shadow Skills Minister Liam Byrne on visits to Seevic College during the 2015 campaign.

He added: "Post-16 education and training is vital for the country's continuing economic recovery.

"I hope that in the forthcoming Queen's Speech, and Autumn Statement, we will not be seeing further damaging pressure to

funding. I was able to make this recommendation personally, in the strongest terms, to Skills Minister Nick Boles during his visit to the college in the election campaign."

He added: "I am very pleased our strong relationship with Rebecca Harris [MP for Castle Point] is set to continue.

"She has always been a big supporter of the college and takes great interest in the progress of our students."

Students had the opportunity to grill the prospective parliamentary candidates for Castle Point in a hustings three weeks before the general election.

Hot topics discussed included cuts to youth services in Essex, university tuition fees, voter apathy, local traffic congestion and the national budget deficit.

Seevic sixth-form offers the widest choice of A-Levels in South Essex in addition to vocational and professional qualifications, apprenticeships, foundation learning, higher education and adult and community learning.

Around 3,000 students attend the college's Benfleet campus.

The college has had a record-breaking number of applications from school leavers for courses starting in September 2015.

However, it's not too late to apply and you can do so online at www.seevic-college.ac.uk

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Complaint against coroner kept secret

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

southend@yellowad.co.uk

CIVIL servants have blocked the publication of complaints against the Essex Coroner's Office. The *Yellow Advertiser* filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) request in July 2014, asking for details of complaints against coroner Caroline Beasley-Murray.

The request was filed after Ms Beasley-Murray was given an official warning over "misconduct". Public bodies are required by law to respond to FOI requests within 20 working days but the county council waited nine months and then refused to release any of the information.

No explanation was given for the legal breach. The *YA* has requested an internal investigation. In its July 2014 request, the *YA* specifically said it did not want any personal data about complainants. It asked for all such data to be redacted so that the wider complaints could be published. However, council officers claimed they could not release the complaints because they contained personal information. It did not even release basic details, such as the number of complaints filed, when they were filed, or what type of misconduct was alleged. In June 2014 the *YA* exclusively revealed that Ms Beasley-Murray had been given the formal warning over "misconduct" in the inquest of Edward Gillespie, 38, of Rosslyn Crescent, Luton. The Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice each signed a formal warning, saying she had "delayed" an inquest and failed to keep "interested



CASE: How the *Yellow Advertiser* reported the news last year over the inquest of Edward Gillespie, centre, by Coroner Caroline Beasley-Murray

parties" notified about the case. "Interested parties" include the deceased person's loved ones and witnesses in the case. Mr Gillespie's body was found in water at Roydon Marina Village, Harlow, on January 26, 2013. He had gone missing from a work Christmas party at the Roydon Marina Hotel on December 21, 2012. His inquest was opened on February 5, 2013, but did not conclude until March 13, 2014. His cause of death was given as cardiorespiratory arrest with the secondary cause as "immersion". Ms Beasley-Murray ruled his death an accident. The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO), which issued the formal warning, refused to answer basic questions, such as how the coroner had delayed the inquest, why it believed she had done so



and why this amounted to misconduct. It also refused to say whether it had investigated or sanctioned the coroner in the past. The JCIO said it would not respond to questions because the answers were "personal information", which it would be "unfair" to disclose. The *YA*, responded to the JCIO: "Ms Beasley-Murray, when performing her duties as Essex coroner, does not act in a personal capacity. She is there on the taxpayers' dime, serving taxpayers. Nothing she does in her capacity as coroner can be reasonably described as personal. It is also ridiculous to suggest that the information could be considered confidential, when this investigation has been funded by taxpayers and carried out in the public interest." The JCIO still refuses to answer any questions.

Please drive Miss Daisy...

A CHARITY needs your help to continue providing a lifeline of friendship to older people. One Sunday afternoon a month, groups meet for tea and companionship in people's homes. Could you help as a driver to pick up and take two or three elderly people to a home near you? If you have a clean driving licence and a friendly disposition, you could make some new friends and help in the fight against loneliness and isolation. For more information and details of how to find your local Volunteer Centre, visit www.volunteeressex.org.

Village Beach free festival

A FREE festival of culture is coming to Grays. Southend arts group Metal has teamed up with Thurrock Council to hold the Village Beach festival at Grays Beach Riverside Park on Saturday, July 18, from 11am to 8pm. Seven stages will showcase music, spoken word, dance, cabaret and other art forms. Beatbox star Shlomo is set to appear, as well as RE:VERB, who appeared on Britain's Got Talent as Youth Creation and Russell Brand will display images from his new children's book, *Trickster Tales: The Pied Piper*, in a beach hut. For more visit www.villagebeachfestival.com.

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NEWS

Win devilish show tickets

THE sizzling cult musical Hot Stuff explodes onto the Queen's Theatre stage from Friday to June 13, jam-packed with iconic dance-floor anthems from the 70s.

We have three pairs of tickets to give away to see the show which features the devilishly delicious talents of Lady Felicia - who stars as the super-glitz, effortlessly evil Lucy Fur.

Disco dancer Joe Soap (West End performer Matthew Quinn), dreams of becoming a rich and famous rock star so he signs a pact with the devil - well the devil's flamboyant, high-heeled disciple Lucy Fur - and things go anything but to plan.

Hot Stuff promises a sensational party from start to finish with hits from ABBA, Michael Jackson, The Beatles, The Sex Pistols, Elton John, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder and many more, all performed live by the Queen's award-winning professional ensemble of actor-musicians - and now dancers - cut to the chase.

For tickets call the Queen's Theatre box office on 01708 443333 or book online at queens-theatre.co.uk. To read



Lady Felicia is Lucy Fur



To enter the competition hone your answer - A, B or C - to (0901 307 0205) along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

Alternatively text YAHOT (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333. calls cost 51p from a BT landline. Calls from other networks may vary and from mobiles will cost considerably more.

Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, please text EXIT at the end of your message.

Lines close on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

Service Provider: JMedia UK Limited, SW4 7BX. Tel: 0207 720 7130.

Lady Felicia's rehearsal diaries visit her blog at <http://ladyfelicia.weebly.com/biography.html>

To win one of three pairs of tickets to see Hot Stuff at 8pm on Wednesday, June 10, just answer the following question.

Q: The music in Hot Stuff comes from which decade?

**A: The 70s
B: The 80s
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Every c2c train will have 300 extra seats to cope with the number of fans expected on Saturday

Trains to be doubled for big play-off

45,000 extra Shrimpers on way to Wembley

By Charles Thomson

brentwood@yellowad.co.uk

TRAIN operator c2c will lay on 45,000 extra seats this Saturday for Southend United fans, as the team travels to Wembley for the League Two play-off final against Wycombe Wanderers.

The extra seats are equivalent to half the capacity of Wembley

Stadium. The company will create the extra seating by doubling the length of every train to eight carriages.

This will be the equivalent of an extra 300 seats on every train.

Extra trains will also be on standby for the company to deliver extra services on short notice, if needed, when fans

start flooding through Fenchurch Street station on the way home.

Delivery director Kevin Frazer said: "We know thousands of local fans will be heading to Wembley."

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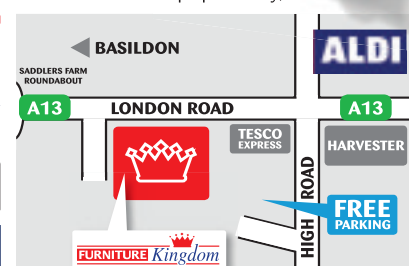
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NEWS

Police launch witness appeal after cat is shot

A POLICE investigation has been launched after a cat was shot in the Westcliff area.

Officers have issued a witness appeal after the pet was found to have a shattered leg.

They want to speak to anybody who noticed any suspicious behaviour but said they did not know where the shooting had happened.

The injury was spotted on Saturday, May 2, when the cat returned home to Clifftown Parade after its regular evening walk.

Owners spotted the wound at 10pm and took the cat to the veterinary clinic where it was X-rayed which revealed that the animal's bone had been shattered.

A vet said the injury may have been caused by a bullet or a pellet from an air weapon.

PC Sue Hellier said: "The cat usually only roams in the front or back garden of his home. Unfortunately, we don't know where he may have gone on this occasion and therefore where this incident may have happened."

"However, if anyone heard anything, such as an air weapon being fired, or anyone saw the injured cat or anything suspicious, we would like to hear from them."

PC Hellier urged witnesses to contact her at Southend police station by dialling 101 or call Crimstoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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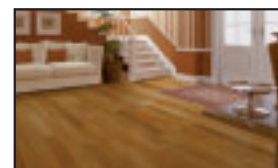
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Clean up is well timed

HUNDREDS of bags of seaweed and debris which had been washed ashore by last week's winds were cleared from a Canvey beach.

Local community group Canvey Bay Watch were joined on Thorney Bay Beach, by volunteers from Marks & Spencer, Shoeburyness, as part of the Marine Conservation Society's annual Beach Clean programme.

Island Councillor, Barry Campagna, from Canvey Bay Watch, said: "Their help could not have been timed better as last week storm winds had brought a mass of seaweed and debris onto the beach which would have taken us weeks to clear.

"However with help we got it done in one day."

The volunteers from M&S arrived with baskets of bags and gloves as well as baskets of fruit and drinks.

He added: "We are also grateful to staff from Castle Point Council contractors, Pinnacle, who collected and disposed of hundreds of bags for us."

Brides' story told through the dress



TREASURED MEMORIES: The dress from 1916, one of seven on show

A SOUTHEND gallery is showcasing an historic collection of wedding dresses.

Seven Brides explores the style, design and personal stories associated with bridal wear from 1916 to the present day.

Seven unique wedding dresses will be displayed, at the Beecroft Gallery, alongside accessories and bridesmaid dresses.

The white wedding dress has endured the test of time in western cultures. It was popularised by Queen Victoria who wore white for her wedding to Prince Albert in 1840.

A short film featuring women explaining what their wedding dress means to them will be part of the exhibition.

It includes a dress influenced by the X Box game, Halo, which the bride was a fan of, and a frock made in Maid Marian style by a bride who had worked as a theatrical costumer.

Visitors will be encouraged to share their wedding experiences through a tag board within the space and to follow Southend Museums' Pinterest board to keep up to date on wedding inspirations and fashion.

The exhibition opens on Saturday, May 23 until September 26.

The Beecroft Gallery, in the former Southend Library Building in Victoria Avenue, Southend, is open from 10am until 5pm Tuesdays to Saturdays. Admission is free.



JOB DONE: Bay Watch and M&S volunteers at the beach

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Latest acts lined up for V Festival

MARK Ronson, Example, Tove Lo and Maverick Sabre are among the acts that have been added to this year's V Festival line-up.

Scouting For Girls, Aston Merrygold and Bleachers have also been added to the festival, sponsored by Virgin Media, which will take over Chelmsford's Hylands Park on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23.

Hit-maker Ronson will be performing a DJ set on Saturday, while Example, supported by DJ Wire, will also be appearing on the same day.

"I can't wait to return to V Festival, the crowds never dis-

appoint," says Example.

"A lot of people will be used to my shows with the live band behind me, but this time I'll be bringing DJ Wire as I want to put on a unique rave with a twist. I've been lucky enough to perform at festivals all over the world but there's always something special about V Festival – it feels like my home turf."

Maverick Sabre, who will be appearing at Hylands Park on Sunday along with Scouting for Girls, said: "It's been a busy year and what better way to celebrate than playing at one of the best festivals in the UK."

"I'll be dropping some new tunes, so really looking forward to getting out there and sharing them with my fans."

Merrygold added: "I'm so excited to be performing at V Festival for the first time, it's going to be great fun. It has definitely been tough trying to contain myself, sitting on my hands waiting to get out there with new material, so I can't wait to finally share my music with everyone...bring it on!"

The newly announced acts will be joining a 20th anniversary line-up that includes Calvin Harris, Kasabian, Sam Smith, Stereophonics, George Ezra and Ellie Goulding.



DJ SET: Mark Ronson

What's more, the hottest names in music will be performing alongside an eclectic mix of comedy headliners including Russell Kane, Frankie Boyle, Shappi Khorsandi and Nick Helm, who will all take centre stage in the Glee Club Comedy Tent across the weekend.

In the coming months V Festival will announce additions to both music and comedy line-ups.

● For further information and tickets visit www.vfestival.com.

After the votes have all been counted

A NUMBER of thoughts race through your mind on being told you have been selected as a Parliamentary candidate; among these is the enormous responsibility that has been placed on your shoulders.

Your members want a campaign that makes them proud to be a part of a political organisation, and regardless of your chances you owe them to have at least given it your all.

I was selected last August, and I hope that I have worked hard enough.

Despite the political climate that prevails in Southend West I think Labour did well.

We finished a good second, hauling ourselves past the Liberal Democrats, as well as seeing off UKIP.

Whoever follows in my footsteps, they will have the mantle of main challenger.

Labour did well in the local elections, too, in this part of the borough of Southend-on-Sea, and we are well-placed in many wards now.

I must thank all my opponents and their workers for

their campaigns. There is no democracy without choice, and despite my disagreements over what they each stood for, I at least acknowledge that the Southend West election would have been less diverting without their presence.

I wish Sir David Amess well in his role as my representative for the next five years.

I also promise to play my part in challenging what he and his Government will be doing over that period.

I have the memory of a foot broken while canvassing, many charming and inspiring conversations, hours toiling over a keyboard, and the encouragement and hard work of all those who gave their time to help in my campaign.

I finally thank all those who voted, both for and against me.

Democratic engagement is essential, and we only have to look to where in the world there is no democracy to see what a treasure we all have.

Julian Ware-Lane

Labour candidate for Southend West Leigh-on-sea

● MY thanks to the faithful core Labour support in Castle Point.

Electors were faced with an unprecedented barrage of literature and advertising in the battle between the Conservative and UKIP candidates and we expected an element of "squeezing" of our vote.

In fighting the unfairness of the Tory approach to reducing the deficit, I hoped (and still hope) that Labour's vision and policies would attract more support than the divisive UKIP narrative.

The results show that, invigorated by our new supporters, Labour has much to do to win hearts, minds and votes in Castle Point to defend our community.

Joe Cooke
Labour Parliamentary
Candidate – Castle Point
Thundersley



SATURDAY: Example



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Stay up to date with the latest news, views and sport from across the area by following us on our new Twitter account @SouthendYA

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number, wherever possible, for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. Contributions may be edited for reasons of space.

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Belgium's 'Chocolate and Lace' city

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Experience four of Belgium's most fascinating cities; the 'Chocolate and Lace' city of Bruges, historic Antwerp – the 'Diamond Capital of the World' – the stylish Belgian capital, Brussels and medieval Ghent, on this fantastic value summertime break.

Highlights & inclusions

- Visit to Bruges
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5 days from £289.00, 7 August 2015

From delightful Amsterdam, with its canals, cobblestones and café-bars, to elegant Den Haag's museums and former parliament buildings, and to fun-loving Scheveningen.

Highlights & inclusions

- Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam
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Dublin & Ireland's Beautiful South-East

See the best of Ireland's south-east

6 days from £429.00, 4 October 2015

This lovely holiday features famous places, beautiful scenery and historic sights. Discover irrepressible Dublin and lively Kilkenny on our included visits, and perhaps join optional excursions to magnificent Powerscourt Gardens, charming Waterford and pretty Avoca - better known as TV's 'Ballykissangel'.

Highlights & inclusions

- Visit lively, medieval Kilkenny on a half-day excursion
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Home of the week

**Esplanade Gardens,
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OFFERING extremely spacious, versatile accommodation, this extended beautifully appointed detached home in this much sought after convenient yet quiet location is a short stroll from the seafront.

Having an abundance of reception rooms, which could also be used as bedrooms, together with three, first-floor double bedrooms, two with superb en-suites, the master also having a south facing balcony, the property has attractive features seldom found on the open market.

With ample off-street parking, a landscaped rear garden and a garage, this home will appeal to a large number of home seekers. Indeed, it is our assertion that the internal arrangement of the property also suits those requiring dual accommodation given the layout and the number of bathrooms.

This really does represent a rare opportunity and we therefore politely suggest an appointment is made to internally inspect this fabulous property.

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OnTheMarket.com goes from strength to strength announcing 10 million visits in 3 months.

OnTheMarket.com - the new property portal where Stuart Thomas Estates is listing all of its properties is pleased to announce it has achieved 10 million visits to the site with 90 million page views in just 3 months!

OnTheMarket.com launched on January 26th 2015, and features hundreds of thousands of properties for sale and to rent at all price points across the UK.

Stuart Thomas from Stuart Thomas Estates said: "It is great news that OnTheMarket.com is growing at such an impressive rate and it will continue to expand as the property-seeking public realises it is the 1st place to find some of the latest homes that come to market. We have been pleasantly surprised at the high quality of the enquiries we have received from OnTheMarket.com"

Ian Springett, Chief Executive of OnTheMarket.com said: "We are confident in becoming the number two portal by the end of January 2016, on our way to achieving our medium term objective of becoming the market leader.

Stuart Thomas Estates invites anyone looking to market their home to call them on 01702 558110.

Ask the Agent

Alan Kirkman

Q. Aren't all letting agents supposed to be displaying upfront information about fees?

A. The short answer is yes. In fact, from 27th May, under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, there will be a statutory duty on lettings agents in England to display prominently - both in their offices and on their websites - a list of fees.

For the purposes of the legislation, "fees" are basically defined as any monies which a landlord or tenant pays to the agent for letting agency or property management work, in connection with an assured tenancy.

The list must give enough information so that - whether you are a landlord or a tenant - you can easily work out exactly what you are paying for, and why, and how much it will cost. So, for example, the list must indicate whether the fees are per property or per individual. The fees must also be shown inclusive of VAT (and any other applicable tax), and in the case of any variable fees (i.e. ones that cannot be determined in advance), an explanation of how the fee is calculated



Alan Kirkman is a Director of both Tudor Estates in Southend and Essex TEAM part of a network of independently owned estate agents who share their instructions for the benefit of giving their client properties maximum market exposure. Alan has been an estate agent for over 32 years.

must also be displayed. In addition to a list of fees, all letting agents must from 27th May also display a notice setting out which redress scheme they belong to, while those firms which hold client monies (for example, tenants' deposits) must clearly indicate whether they are members of an approved client money protection scheme.

In practice, the majority of the more professional letting agents - for example, those who belong to a recognised professional body with a strict Code of Conduct, and/or those who belong to a redress scheme for

which full disclosure is a condition of membership - already meet these requirements.

On the other hand, those letting agents that don't yet comply will certainly have to do so by 27th - or face the possibility of being fined up to £5,000 by Trading Standards.

Sadly, given the fact that the lettings industry is still something of a wild frontier - despite regular calls from responsible individual agents and professional bodies such as ARLA (the Association of Residential Letting Agents) for greater regulation - there will undoubtedly be some firms that try and get away with bending or flouting these new rules.

In which case, I would urge landlords and tenants alike to take note, and vote with their feet....!

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RAYLEIGH

Price Range £650,000-£680,000

Located in one of the most sought after roads in Rayleigh and backing onto farmland is this most impressive four bedroom, three reception room detached residence. Internally the property further benefits from a rear conservatory, modern fitted kitchen breakfast room, utility room and ground floor cloakroom. The first floor is approached via a galleried landing whilst the master bedroom offers en-suite shower room and views to the rear over farmland, the rear garden measures 65' in depth and 50' in width and the property also boasts an attached double length garage of 35' x 8'3" which is approached via a carriage driveway to the front. An internal viewing of this property is essential to appreciate the accommodation on offer.



DAWS HEATH

£289,995

- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- En-suite wc
- Detached garage
- Modern kitchen and bathroom
- Popular location

HOCKLEY

£425,000

- Choice of two brand new detached houses
- Four bedrooms
- Garage
- 0.5 of a mile from Station
- Nearing completion
- Viewings now be being booked

DAWS HEATH

£500,000

Situated within a cul-de-sac and siding onto farmland whilst offering lovely views is this well presented and spacious four double bedroom, two reception room detached residence. Internally the property further benefits from rear conservatory, 13'10 kitchen breakfast room, utility room and ground floor cloakroom to the ground floor whilst the first floor offers four double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, modern en-suite shower to master bedroom and modern family bathroom both of which offer under floor heating. The property is situated on a 65' wide plot and the garden has been landscaped, to the front of the property there is a spacious driveway providing plentiful of parking and an integral garage with remote roller door. Due to the unique setting of this property we would highly recommend an internal viewing for it to be fully appreciated.



SOUTHEND

£108,000

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- * Immaculately presented three bedroom end terrace house
- * Quiet Cul De Sac within 20 min walk of Leigh station
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- * Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
- * Good access to A127 & Southend Airport
- * West Facing Rear Garden
- * Three Reception Rooms

- * Conservatory
- * Detached Double Garage
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2 Bedrooms
Second Floor

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Call for a viewing:
01702 47 00 66



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2 Bedrooms
Detached Bungalow

Situated just north of the A13 and therefore central for most local amenities including Waitrose supermarket and buses serving the surrounding district this modern detached bungalow offers compact living accommodation including.

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HIGHLANDS
5 bedrooms
Detached house

Situated in this highly desirable location on the Highlands estate we are delighted to offer this large Detached five bedroom house. Through 24'8" lounge, additional reception, fitted kitchen with dining area off, utility & cloakroom. En-suite to master, gas central heating & double glazing.

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£355,000

BROADWAY WEST
3 Bedroom
Third Floor

Situated on the third floor of this highly sought after Art Deco building. This very large apartment offers excellent three bedroomed accommodation mainly with west facing windows, lifts serving all floors, dedicated parking space to the front of the building and located in the heart of Leigh Broadway with comprehensive shopping facilities and bars and restaurants within a few hundred yards.

Call for a viewing:
01702 47 00 66



£375,000

3 BEDROOMS
Semi detached

We are delighted to offer to the market this charming character 3 bedroomed family home situated on the tree lined boulevard being within the Westleigh catchment and is offered with no onward chain.

Call for a viewing:
01702 47 00 66



£385,000

BLENHEIM PARK AREA
2/3 Bedroom
Detached Chalet

Detached chalet bungalow in North Leigh close to Blenheim park. The property is in beautiful order throughout and offers versatile accommodation large lounge, well fitted modern kitchen, ground floor bathroom, dining room (or bedroom three), further ground floor bedroom and large first floor double bedroom. The property enjoys a well tended rear gardens with the added advantages of garage.

Call for a viewing:
01702 47 00 66



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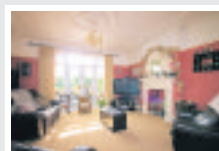
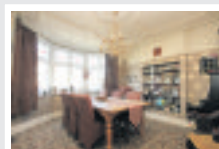
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Large Family Residence
**CHALKWELL****£650,000****4/5 Bedrooms****Detached House**

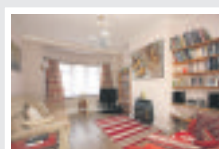
4/5 bedroom detached family residence for sale. A former school with original features & planning permission for an Orangery giving open plan living space. Luxurious family bathroom, dual aspect garage, secluded south facing rear garden,

Call for a viewing: **01702 34 11 77**
Stunning Views
**£249,995****SOUTHEND****3 Bedrooms****Apartment**

This quite stunning three bedroomed 11th floor apartment has some breath taking views of the Estuary with most of the rooms having a west facing aspect, a large balcony leading from the generous living room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom, three bedrooms. Full lift service and garage. Chain Free

Call for a viewing: **01702 34 11 77**
Large Family Home
**£300,000****WESTCLIFF****5 Bedrooms****Semi Detached**

This very deceiving five bedroom family home has exceptional sized accommodation over three floors include large bedrooms, spacious ground floor reception rooms together with four bedrooms to the first floor and a further bedroom within the roof space.

Call for a viewing: **01702 34 11 77**
New Instruction
**WESTCLIFF****£260,000****Three Bedrooms****Semi Detached**

Hair & Son are delighted to be offering For Sale this extremely well presented three bedroom end of terrace family home ideally located for local schools and Southend University Hospital. Further benefits include good size rear garden and garage. Early viewings are highly recommended.

Call for a viewing: **01702 34 11 77**

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Maldon Road, Southend-on-Sea
1 Bed First Floor Flat
With garden.

£595.00



Whitegate Road, Southend-on-Sea
5 Bed House with garden
Coming soon.

£1300.00



Stromness Road, Southend-on-Sea
2 Bed First Floor Flat

£725.00



**Ailsa Road
Westcliff-on-Sea**

1 Bed First Floor Flat
Located moments from good transport links and a variety of amenities, this smart one bedroom first floor flat boast a neat living space, perfect for commuters.

£555.00



Property of the week



Milton Street, Southend-on-Sea
1 Bed First Floor Flat

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Fairfax Drive, Leigh-on-Sea
4 Bed Maisonette
With garden.

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London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea
3 Bed First Floor Flat
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CANVEY ISLAND

£350,000

An impressive and deceptively spacious four bedroom family home with superb panoramic views towards the Thames Estuary from the first floor lounge and balcony. Large ground floor lounge, conservatory.

BENFLEET
ROAD!



HADLEIGH

£339,995

Walking distance to Hadleigh town centre and local bus routes is this charming detached bungalow on the much sought after Benfleet Road. The property benefits from a good size through lounge and fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, low maintenance garden, off street parking and a garage.

LOCATION
LOCATION!



HADLEIGH

£440,000

Greatly extended to the rear is this large family home in the sought after area of Scrub Lane. The kitchen/diner is a good size with patio doors to the rear garden and so much more! Call us now to view.

NO
ONWARD
CHAIN!



THUNDERSLEY

£260,000

Ready to move in to! This good size semi detached bungalow is well located in this quiet cul de sac and is offered for sale with no onward chain. The Lounge has a feature fireplace and doors to the conservatory/dining room.

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Lettings | Rayleigh

Connells

Do Your Research On Letting Agents Advises Connells



It is vital that both tenants and landlords do some research into the letting agent they are putting their trust into before you sign an agreement or hand any money over. After the Government's announcement that renties are now able to access a greater proportion of their pension annuity, some aspiring investors may turn their focus to buy-to-let property. With this in mind, Connells believes that now is an extremely important time for anybody thinking of letting a property to be aware of the correct and current procedures to ensure you are gaining the best possible return from your property and have the right tenants to match your needs. There may be an influx of novice landlords over the next few months because of the recent pension changes. Therefore we believe it is vitally important that landlords understand the importance of their letting agent being transparent about the fees they charge and how they are regulated; here at Connells we are a member of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) which is the leading regulatory letting body in the UK. We also hold our tenant's deposits in the Tenant Deposit Scheme which offers security to both landlords and tenants when the tenancy comes to an end. The services we offer as a letting agent are exactly the type of procedures agents should be providing to protect their customers and it is imperative that whether you are a tenant or landlord you do your research into this before rushing into instructing an agent or letting a house from them.

For your free rental assessment call 01268 779434 or email rayleighlet@connells.co.uk

Where we are... locally



Rayleigh (Sales & Lettings)
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Essex SS8 7QA
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T: 01268 779434 (Lettings)
E: rayleighlet@connells.co.uk



Billericay (Sales & Lettings)
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Billericay, Essex CM12 9BT
T: 01277 655 555 (Sales)
E: billericay@connells.co.uk



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Essex CM7 1TX
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Suffolk IP38 1LA
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E: burystedmunds@connells.co.uk



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T: 01245 352 735 (Lettings)
E: chelmsfordlet@connells.co.uk



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Essex CO15 1EP
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E: clactononseale@connells.co.uk



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Rayleigh

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Let within 24 hours! More properties of all types needed in the Rayleigh area due to high demand.

Hockley

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Let on first viewing! We have waiting tenants looking to move in the local area urgently. Contact us today to arrange your free rental valuation and find out what rental income you could be on your property.

Eastwood

NOW LET



Large family home let in a quiet cul de sac in the always popular village of Eastwood achieving a rent of £1250pcm on a long term let.

Hadleigh

£1300PCM



Wonderful three bedroom family home in quiet and desirable cul de sac only a short walk from Deans Academy. The house features garage, gas central heating, fitted kitchen and large open plan living room.

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Rayleigh

£1595pcm



Striking four bedroom detached house with superb access to the A127. The property has just been totally refurbished and features, large and airy living spaces, great sized family bedrooms and many other features to mention.

Rayleigh

£1200 PCM



Newly decorated three bedroom family home available immediately. The property has many features from the large kitchen / diner, plenty of storage throughout, conservatory with heating, own garage and driveway as well as many more. Call today to arrange your viewing on 01268 779434.

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looking for a
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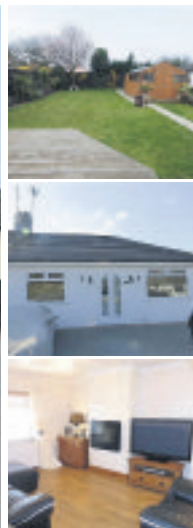
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Rayleigh

Connells

Hullbridge

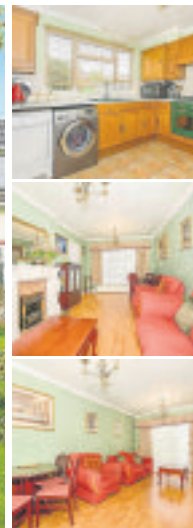
£350,000



OPEN HOUSE - SATURDAY 23RD MAY - 1.00PM - 2.00PM - This deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached bungalow benefits from having been recently extended and upgraded to in our opinion to an exceptionally high standard. There is a double glazed conservatory, off street parking for several cars and a large rear garden - CALL 01268 777767 TO BOOK A VIEWING APPOINTMENT.

Rayleigh

£370,000



Situated in a very popular part of Rayleigh and within close proximity to Rayleigh High Street and Mainline Station is this deceptively spacious detached house offering three bedrooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom. Property also benefits from a single garage to the rear of the property.

Rayleigh

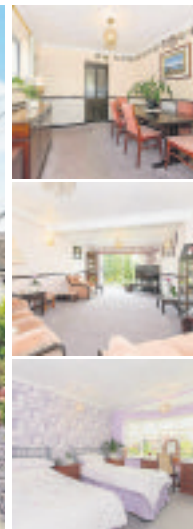
£280,000



Situated in a Cul de Sac position this three bedroom semi detached house benefits from lounge/diner, modern fitted kitchen and a ground floor W.C. There is an independent drive offering off street parking and an enclosed rear garden.

Rayleigh

£345,000



Situated in a popular part of Rayleigh this semi detached chalet style bungalow offers three bedrooms, two reception rooms, utility room and en-suite to master bedroom and bedroom two. Property also benefits from off street parking for two vehicles.

Hockley

£90,000



Situated Tower Park This detached park home offers one bedroom with en-suite shower room, lounge/diner and fitted kitchen. The property is being sold with NO ONWARD CHAIN. There is also communal parking available.

Chelmsford

£80,000



Situated on the sought after Temple Grove Park this one bedroom park home has been tastefully modernised by its present owner. There is a wrap around garden backing onto woodland. Viewing recommended.

Hullbridge

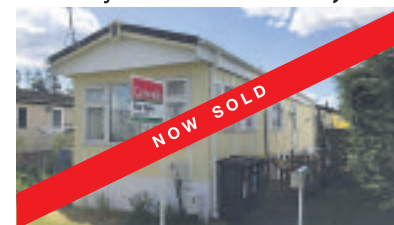
£150,000



Situated on the popular Halcyon Park site this large detached two bedroom park home offering lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen and shower room. Property benefits from garden to the front and rear.

Hockley

£60,000



This detached one bedroom park home on the sought after Dome Park is being offered with NO ONWARD CHAIN. The property has a modern fitted bathroom and is on a good sized plot with its own front and rear gardens.

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Guide £275,000 - £280,000



SOUGHT AFTER
LOCATION



Spacious Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow Situated In This Extremely Sought After Cul-De-Sac \ Walking Distance Of Local Woodland \ Lounge 16'2 x 10'8 \ Dining Room 9'5 x 8'7 \ Sitting Room 9'6 x 8'8 \ Kitchen 9'4 x 8'7 \ Conservatory 8'7 x 8'2 \ Master Bedroom 14'4 x 10'9 \ Bedroom Two 10'8 x 9'4 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Secluded Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Viewings Essential \ EPC Band D \ Call 01702 555888

Shipwrights Drive, THUNDERSLEY

Guide £350,000 - £360,000



SPACIOUS
BUNGALOW



A substantial detached character bungalow offering a wealth of character features \ Spacious Entrance Hall 10'5 x 9'11 \ Lounge 14'7 x 10'0 \ Dining Area 9'9 x 6'9 \ Kitchen 10'10 x 9'2 \ Conservatory 10'2 x 9'4 \ Bedroom One 13'8 x 11'4 \ Bedroom Two 11'3 x 9'7 \ Bedroom Three 8'7 x 7'7 \ Shower Room \ Garage \ Off Street Parking for several vehicles \ Excellent location close to bus routes \ Epc - E \ Call 01702 555888

Esplanade Gardens, CHALKWELL \ Guide £725,000 - £750,000



DESIRABLE
LOCATION



Having been extended and which now offers extremely spacious, versatile accommodation a beautifully appointed detached home in this much sought after, convenient yet quiet location a short stroll from the Seafront.

Having an abundance of reception rooms which could also be used as bedrooms, together with three first floor double bedrooms, two with superb en-suites, the master also having a south facing balcony, the property has attractive features seldom found on the open market. With ample off street parking, a landscaped rear garden and a garage, this home will appeal to a large number of home seekers. Indeed, it is our assertion that the internal arrangement of the property also suits those requiring dual accommodation given the layout and the number of bathing facilities.

This really does represent a rare opportunity and we therefore politely suggest an appointment is made to internally inspect this fabulous property.

Nº of bedrooms **3/5**

Style of Property **Detached**

Parking **Ample Parking**

Garden **Landscaped**



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Rayleigh - t: 01268 742 742

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team





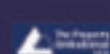
Glenhurst Road, Southend-on-Sea £250,000

Well presented three bedroom extended end of terrace house situated in a popular residential area. The modern interior benefits from a well appointed kitchen, ground floor cloakroom/utility room, double glazed windows, modern bath/shower room, garden with summer house and off street parking to the front. Highly recommended!
Ref: ETS5008 EPC E



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team



Woodgrange Drive, Southend-on-Sea £250,000

In need of refurbishment is this four bedroom freehold house with two reception rooms and the added benefit of a one bedroom Annex with a lounge, kitchen, bedroom and shower room. The property is double glazed throughout, with garden, garage and parking.
Ref: ETS4928 EPC D



Pavillion Drive, Leigh-on-Sea £150,000

Spacious one bedroom first floor flat which benefits from well fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances, modern fitted bathroom, balcony, part double glazing, gas central heating and off street parking. Convenient for local shopping facilities. No onward chain.
Ref: ETS5004 EPC F



Genesta Road, Westcliff-on-Sea £110,000

One double bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential area convenient for Hamlet Court Road & Westcliff mainline station. Benefiting from a modern fitted kitchen & bathroom, double glazed windows, gas central heating and off street parking. Currently let producing possible £6,000 per annum.
Ref: ETS5003 EPC D



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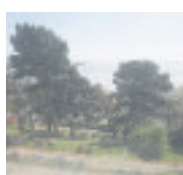
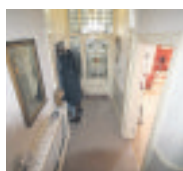
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Clifftown Conservation Area £850,000

Sorrell are privileged to offer for sale this unique character four storied Georgian town house being Grade 2 listed built in 1792 situated within the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. The property offers attractive and spacious living accommodation with many period features as well as benefitting from a self contained two bedroom lower ground floor apartment. There is also the added benefit of a Mews building with off street parking. The property affords uninterrupted and attractive views over and towards the Estuary. Properties of this calibre rarely come on the market and this is a unique opportunity to purchase this delightful home which offers a multitude of uses and is set within Southend's only Georgian Terrace.

Georgian Town House

En-suite bathroom/wc

Grade 2 listed

Trafalgar balcony

Views towards Estuary

Lower ground floor apartment

Five bedrooms

Mews garage and office

Spacious accommodation

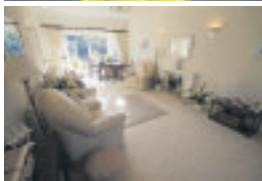
Off street parking

Southend On Sea £295,000



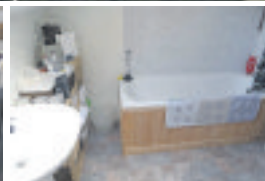
Sorrell are favoured and delighted to offer for sale this substantial terraced family house. The large accommodation comprises of three reception rooms along with seven bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen and further attic kitchen, Established front and rear gardens. The property is situated within a central location and offers enormous potential for a large family house or other uses subject to relevant planning. Vacant possession.

Southend On Sea OIE0 £293,000



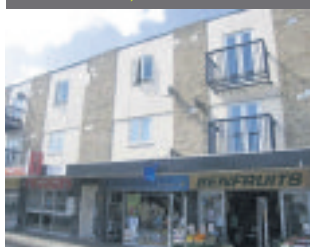
Attractive and contemporary detached bungalow. The property offers spacious living accommodation and two double bedrooms. Full gas central heating and double glazing. Benefitting from garage and offering views over Priory Park. Established west backing garden.

Southend On Sea £234,995



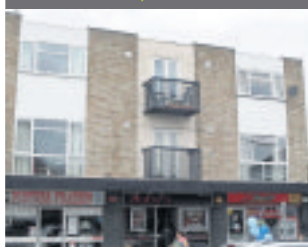
Unique second and third floor duplex apartment offering extensive views over the Estuary and cliff gardens. The property offers good size living accommodation and benefits from two bedrooms as well as full gas central heating.

Benfleet £92,000



Well presented studio first floor apartment positioned close to local shops in Benfleet High Road within walking distance of Benfleet railway station with links to Fenchurch Street. Accommodation comprises good size living area with modern kitchen, bathroom/wc and full double glazing, communal off street parking. The property is currently let on an assured shorthold tenancy for a term of 12 months which expires on the 29th November 2015. The current rent is £425 per calendar month which is producing an income of £5,100 per annum.

Benfleet £119,950



Sorrell are favoured with instructions to offer for sale this second floor apartment positioned close to local shops in Benfleet High Road within walking distance of Benfleet railway station with links to Fenchurch Street. Accommodation comprises lounge incorporating kitchen area along with double bedroom and modern bathroom/wc. The property benefits from full double glazing and has the advantage of balcony. Communal off street parking. The property is currently let on an assured shorthold tenancy which is holding over at a rent of £500 per calendar month which is producing an income of £6,000 per annum. The property can be offered with vacant possession if required.

Southend On Sea £105,000



Popular Southchurch location convenient for Southend Town Centre and Victoria Railway Station is this ground floor flat benefiting from its own rear garden and offering a lease of approximately 160 years. There is a lounge with open access to a modern fitted kitchen, shower room/wc, and a double bedroom. The property is fully double glazed and has its own rear garden with gates leading to allocated off street parking via Wimbourne Road. No onward chain.

Westcliff On Sea £174,995



Sorrell are favoured with instructions and delighted to offer for sale this fully refurbished self contained first floor apartment situated within a sought after location of Westcliff. The property offers extensive Estuary views with private South Facing Balcony and courtyard decked balcony. Newly quality fitted kitchen and bathroom fittings throughout. 125 year lease.

Southend On Sea £775 pcm



Newly refurbished ground floor apartment situated within a sought after block close to Southend Town Centre. 19'6 x 12'10 lounge/diner, newly fitted kitchen 14'7 x 9'0 with integrated four ring gas hob with electric oven and grill and extractor fan, plumbing and recess for washing machine and recess for upright fridge/freezer, two double bedrooms, bathroom/wc with white suite and chrome fittings, electric shower over bath, full gas central heating and double glazing, attractive front and rear communal gardens, double width garage, No Housing benefit.

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£289,995

Ashdown Crescent, Hadleigh

We are delighted to offer to the market this immaculate 2 bedroom bungalow located within a highly sought after area of Hadleigh. The property is spacious throughout offering 2 double bedrooms and a large lounge as well as off street parking to the front. Situated just a stones throw from parks, woodland and local amenities, this property is not to be missed. Call today to arrange a viewing.



£429,995

Moorcroft Avenue, Daws Heath, Thundersley

We are delighted to offer to the market this 3/4 bedroom family home. The property has been cleverly extended to provide spacious living accommodation spread across the ground floor, along with a large master suite to the first floor with walk-in wardrobe and Juliette balcony. Located within the ever sought after Daws Heath area, this property is just a short walk from woodland, parks and schools. Call Bradleys today to arrange a viewing.



£849,995

Orchard Avenue, Ramsden Bell House

A fabulous opportunity to acquire a brand new 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom detached bungalow occupying a 1/2 acre plot with 100' road frontage in a sought after residential area. The property has been finished to an extremely high standard throughout. Keys held for viewings.



£1,300 PCM

Marlin Close, Daws Heath

We are delighted to offer to the market this spacious 3 bedroom home. The property benefits from a large lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, garage and off street parking. The property has been refurbished throughout and is ready to move into. Keys held.



£800 PCM

London Road, Hadleigh

We are delighted to offer to the market this incredibly spacious 2 bedroom maisonette set within Hadleigh town centre. The property has just been refurbished throughout and has been finished to a very high standard. The property also benefits from off street parking to the rear.



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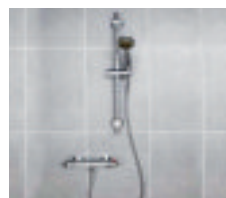


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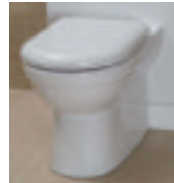
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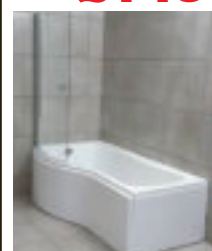


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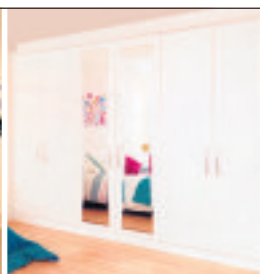
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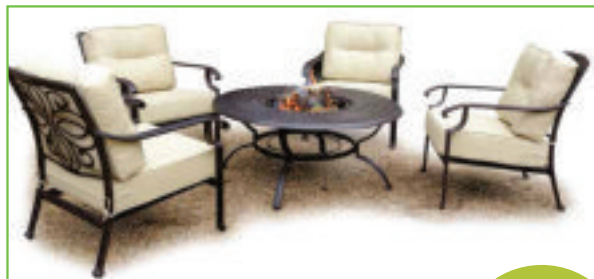
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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming



SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

By LIZ WADE

SONGS from the biggest shows in the world will come together in one unforgettable performance at the Cliffs Pavilion next month.

After two UK tours in 2012 and 2013, an appearance in Singapore and a short run at the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End – The West End Men are back on tour across the UK.

While over the years it has starred the likes of Lee Mead, Mat Rawle, Stephen Rahman-Hughes and Ramin Karimloo, the new show includes the vocal talents of Marcus Collins, Glenn Carter, Alexis Gerred and James Bisp.

After taking the show on a three-week sell-out tour of China at the end of 2014

they are now back on the road in the UK with a new show that will appear at a variety of theatres including the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, on Saturday, June 13.

While James Bisp cannot make this performance – with a replacement soon to be announced – the show still showcases the talent and prowess of some of the finest performers of this generation.

Marcus, Glenn and Alexis will be performing songs from the biggest shows in the world, as well as a selection of some of the best rock and pop classics, during a journey that takes you to the very heart of the West End and its leading men.

So, what can audiences expect from the performance at the Cliffs next month?

Marcus says: "The West End Men are a four-piece vocal harmony collective, who

perform individually and also in harmony as a four. We bring something a little bit less predictable to theatres and something I believe can make a lot of people happy."

Alexis adds: "Audiences can expect a wonderful time. We are four guys who have played numerous roles in and around the West End, coming together to sing some of the best musical theatre songs ever written."

The show has given the lads a taste of performing in both the West End as well as China, both of which have offered them something different. Glenn says the West End is "an amazing environment to work" adding, "it's a vocation, not a job".

"There's a lot of energy in the West End. You're often doing a show that

you've done the night before and the night before that. But the audiences themselves bring so much chemistry. They'll shout out, they'll laugh in places you're not expecting, they'll cheer, they'll clap and they'll stand up. It's the energy of live theatre, a wonderful energy."

Glenn says the tour of China last year was a fantastic experience, and Marcus adds: "It was absolutely phenomenal."

"We sold out arenas and theatres around a different continent. We've never had so much fun, it was brilliant and we look forward to going back."

"It's very different from doing a show in the UK or in London," adds Alexis.

"It was a real eye-opener to all of us how the industry works around the world."

● Turn to page 40

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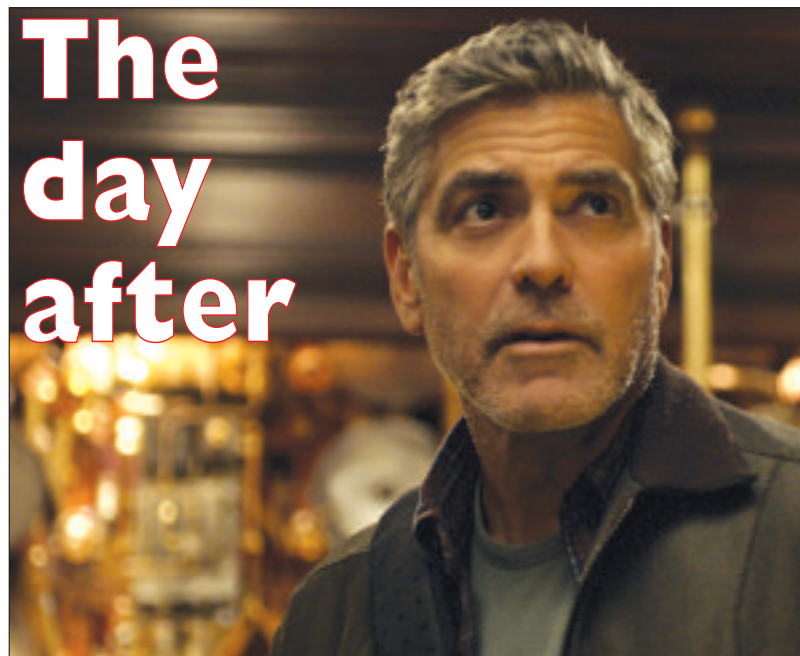
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PrimeTime film review

The day after



George Clooney in Tomorrowland: A World Beyond

PA Photo/Walt Disney Pictures/Kimberley French

TOMORROWLAND: A WORLD BEYOND (12A, 130 mins)

the fairytale realm has been corrupted by power and greed.

Released: May 22

POLTERGEIST 3D (15, 94 mins)

SHARING its title with the futuristic kingdom in Disney theme parks, Tomorrowland is a big budget science-fiction adventure directed by Brad Bird (The Incredibles), about two strangers, who travel to another dimension where their actions have an impact on the past and present.

At the 1964 World Fair, a young boy called Frank Walker (Thomas Robinson) takes a magical trip to a world called Tomorrowland in the company of a girl called Athena (Raffey Cassidy) by touching a lapel pin emblazoned with a capital T.

Android leaders of Tomorrowland discover young Frank and return him to the dull, lifeless world we know. Many years later, Frank (now played by George Clooney) is a grizzled, world weary inventor, who is haunted by his memories of Tomorrowland and the beautiful Athena.

A spirited young woman called Casey Newton (Britt Robertson), who has glimpsed this futuristic realm by touching her own lapel pin, gatecrashes Frank's life at the most inopportune moment. Together, they travel to Tomorrowland, where Frank is reunited with Athena and he discovers that

THEY'RE back! The malevolent forces from Tobe Hooper's seminal 1982 horror resurface in director Gil Kenan's slick contemporary remake.

Eric Bowen (Sam Rockwell) and his wife Amy (Rosemarie DeWitt) move into a new home with their three children; teenage daughter Kendra (Saxon Sharbino), son Griffin (Kyle Catlett) and youngest child Madison (Kennedi Clements).

Angry spirits invade the home and focus their attention on little Madison, making contact with her through the white noise on a TV screen before spiriting away the terrified girl into the netherworld.

Eric and Amy turn to supernatural expert Dr Claire Powell (Jane Adams) and medium Carrigan Burke (Jared Harris) to return Madison to the land of the living.

However, the spirits are reluctant to let go of their prize and they attack the Bowen family with nightmarish visions of their worst fears.

Released: May 22

Stage West End Boys are on song

● From page 39

"China is probably the polar opposite of anything I've ever come across. And the street food was fantastic. It's great that the same team is doing it again," says Glenn, who was inspired to sing by a former girlfriend.

He explains: "I had a girlfriend who once told me, 'you will never get a proper job, so try and sing or something'. So I went 'all right then' and that was it. That's what inspired me. I was just a kid in the back street of some random town who had no idea what it was to sing.

"So the fact that somebody said 'you should try that' was what steered me towards it. And I've loved it."

Having worked with the likes of Andrew Lloyd Webber, when he recently starred in the role of Jesus in Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's Jesus Christ

Superstar in London's West End and on Broadway in New York, did he pick up any words of wisdom from the man himself?

Glenn adds: "Andrew Lloyd Webber said to me once 'trust the music'.

"Although it's not a particularly clear statement to make to someone, I think it's true. You have to trust the process of the work you do, don't impose anything of yourself."

While Glenn was inspired by a former girlfriend to sing, Marcus says his mum was his main influence.

"I think I'd say my mother inspired me to do musical theatre, she saw there was potential for me to do something I would really enjoy," he said.

"I remember we went to see Les Misérables at the Liverpool Empire, and it was one of the most moving performances I've ever seen.

That's heavy for someone at 10 years of age to watch, the French Revolution. But I was stolen there and then; the stage and the theatre were the way for me."

Marcus adds: "There's something really special about performing in theatres. Having to learn to read the audience is so different from where people may originally know me from, in The X Factor.

"That was in a TV studio so I had to condense my performance for a camera. Performing to a theatre is completely different. I just love my job."

■ For further information about The West End Men's tour of the UK visit www.thewestendmen.com, and to book tickets for their show at the Cliffs Pavilion on Saturday, June 13, call the box office on 0844 844 0444 or visit www.southendtheatres.org.uk.

Liz At Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about



Plenty to enjoy over half-term

THE half-term holidays are almost upon us, so why not plan ahead in your effort to keep the children amused.

There are a host of activities taking place in and around the region, allowing you enough scope for everything from a budget day out to the chance to push the boat out. Here are some of them:

Barleylands Farm Park, Billericay:

Be a Farmer for the Day from Monday to Friday, May 25-29. Get involved in bottle-feeding lambs, preparing food for the farmyard animals and grooming goats.

Bring some old clothes to enter the daily scarecrow competitions, and meet the heavy horses before enjoying a sled ride pulled by the gentle giants.

There is also the chance to get creative with biscuit decorating and grow your own plants with seeds to take away.

■ www.barleylands.co.uk

Wrest Park, Bedfordshire:

This English Heritage estate with 90 acres will set the scene for *Wrest at War*, from Sunday to Monday, May 24-25, an action packed bank holiday giving an

insight into wartime Britain. Experience what it was like for Tommy in the trenches of the First World War, the Trooper at the D-Day landings and nurses and doctors who patched up soldiers in the hospital, plus see an explosive arena show.

A Train the Troops event for children is from Tuesday to Friday (May 26-29), so they can become a Home Front hero and discover more about *Wrest Park's* secret wartime past.

■ www.english-heritage.org.uk/wrest

RSPB Rainham Marshes, Purfleet:

Drop-in activities will be held from Tuesday to Thursday, May 26-28, costing £1 to take part (normal admission prices apply), while a free Family Fun Trail is available over the half-term holiday.

The self-guided adventure trail sheet, available from the visitor centre, allows you to explore the reserve as a family. Children can go pond-dipping from 10.30am to noon, join minibeast hunts from 1-



INSIGHT: *Wrest Park* is holding a wartime bank holiday weekend

2.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday, while on Wednesday there are mudpies and mayhem for pre-

schoolers from 10.30am to noon, and pond-dipping from 1-2.30pm.

■ www.rspb.org.uk

Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey:

Break codes, go undercover, foil espionage and reveal double-agents during the *Spy Kids* event from May 23-31. There are missions to complete all week including a night vision and bomb disposal challenge, super sleuth training in the Mad Lab, where Professor Nitrate carries out hush-hush work, and the chance to test your agility on the assault course.

A *Wild West Weekend* (May 23-25) lets you experience life in the Wild West around 1892 during the Johnson County War.

With cattle rustling and land conflicts it will not be long before six-shooters come out to settle old scores.

See the guns in the armoury collection, learn how to do things Wild West-style with a living history troupe, pan for gold and visit the saloon.

■ www.royalgunpowdermills.com

Audley End House, Saffron Walden:

The Entertaining Elizabeth: Joust, Jesters and Music event is on Sunday and Monday, May 24 and 25.

Join in the merry-making with minstrels and music as the Duke of Norfolk welcomes Queen Elizabeth I, learn the rules of courtly etiquette and see the skills of the Tudor jousts.

A Fool School event runs from Tuesday to Friday, May 26-29, for those who want to learn how to turn a miserable monarch into a sniggering sovereign.

For more about those who lived at Audley End join costumed characters in a *Life Above and Below Stairs* (Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31).

Meet Mrs Crocombe as she prepares a meal, see the stable-hand at work and meet governess Miss Dormer and staff organising the children.

■ www.englishheritage.org.uk

You can read previous days out by visiting www.yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs

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Saturday, May 23

- Club 50+ Southend - 9.30am-3.30pm, activities, tea bar, non-members welcome, £2 day pass details 01702 346863.
- Protophar's Apprentices in concert - St John's Church, Outwood Common Road/Darrell Way, Billericay, CM11 2LE, at 7.30pm. Tickets £8, including buffet, from 01277 654998 or 01277 656948.
- Flower Festival - St John's Church, Outwood Common Road/Darrell Way, Billericay, CM11 2LE. Church open from 10am until 4pm. Teas, coffees and lunches being served.
- Concert - Music in May given by Pauline Curtis (mezzo-soprano) accompanied by Andrew Palmer, 7.30pm, Thundersley Methodist Church, Kennington Avenue, Benfleet SS7 4BS. Tickets £8, concessions £6 from Anne Lane on 01268 755291 or on the door.
- The South East Essex Ramblers - visit <http://sites.google.com/site/southeastessexramblers> to find out when we are walking this week.
- Counselling service - The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yuglio Club - play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 9EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club - The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free entry for ages five to 17 with their fathers and father figures, 01268 773100.
- Saturday Morning Club - St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group - Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class - St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove,

Southend, for those who have had a stroke, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Adults and children £1 each a ride, weather permitting, 07950 659596.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut - 10am-noon, for all your gardening sundries, membership £3, behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.
- Sunday School - Get on Board (no charge), The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am-noon, ages three to 10, Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation - Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation over tea and biscuits, all welcome.
- King's Church Southend - Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend and District, Church of St Barbara, St Phoeniceus and St Paul's - Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club - TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (children aged three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club - Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11.30am, open to all, details Mo 07757 658799.

Sunday, May 24

- Flower Festival Songs of Praise - St John's Church, Outwood Common Road/Darrell Way, Billericay, CM11 2LE, 5pm, followed by tea and cakes.
- Dinner Jazz - Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 1pm, Jazztet with Ian Thompson saxophone/Gareth George guitar.
- Canvey Miniature Railway Train Rides - by Waterside Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9PA, 10.30am-4pm, adults and children £1 each a ride, weather permitting, 07950 659596.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut - 10am-noon, for all your gardening sundries, membership £3, behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.
- Sunday School - Get on Board (no charge), The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am-noon, ages three to 10, Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation - Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation over tea and biscuits, all welcome.
- King's Church Southend - Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon, 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend and District, Church of St Barbara, St Phoeniceus and St Paul's - Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club - TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (children aged three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club - Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11.30am, open to all, details Mo 07757 658799.

Monday, May 25

- Dinner Jazz Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff 1pm 01702 512819.
- Echos from Above - spiritual centre, Ekco Sports and Social Club Thornford Gardens, SS2 6PU, 7.15pm. £3.50, all profits to charity, wards at Southend Hospital.
- Club 50+ - Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm daily, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning - for parents in Craylands and Felmores area, Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free informative workshop, coffee, cake and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or turn up.
- Dance class - usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 542191/542343.
- Leigh Scrabble Club - 7-10pm. All standards welcome. Welsley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am-noon, tai chi: whist 9.45-12.30, 10am to noon, at 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club - Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
- Counselling Service - The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes - Fryerns Community Centre, details Pat 01268 702934.
- Over-50s session - Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road. Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment, 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs - 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge - Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call Vernon 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge - Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop - St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group - 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07913 426371 or email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba - Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course - Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement,

what's on

Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Club 60 - Southend, 9.30-4pm, tea bar, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 613562.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh - welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls - in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls - Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, details Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls - George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mon 2-4pm, Tues 2.15-4.45pm, Wed 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
- Whist - George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club - Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
- Pensioners stall - York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
- Evening of claymancy - Room 2, Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, doors 7.30pm, £3, all profits donated to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing - in Basildon from 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.
- Development Healing Circle - Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, details 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking - from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, details 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club - Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3 inc tea/coffee, call 01268 727915.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group - Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am. 01702 712150.

Tuesday, May 26

Rayleigh Horticultural Society Club Night - Talk by Judith Williams, The History of Essex Gardens, St Michael's Church Hall, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, Near Sweeney Park School, 8pm-10pm. £1.50 for members, £2.50 for non-members.

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PrimeTime

■ Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6 beginners welcome. Please bring a blanket and your yoga mat, ages from 16-plus. 07961 314983.

■ Social Dance Class – with instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashington & East Hawkswell Memorial Hall. 01702 546219/542349.

■ Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.

■ Weekly Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge or booking required. Emma 01702 471873.

■ Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires new or experienced players – James Hornsby School, Laindon village. First session free call or text Alan 07952 043456.

■ Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff. Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.

■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquiries Anne 01702 556470.

■ Folk Music – The Hov at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm. 01702 715111.

■ Tea Dance – Ashington Memorial Hall, Ashington Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm. 01702 584575.

■ Scrabble Club – Hockley Social Centre (rear of library), 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.

■ Ladies Fellowship – Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.

■ The Puffer's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm. 01702 610050/466827.

■ Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group – Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, 9.30am-2pm.

■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, every Tuesday 7.15pm, £2 enquiries Anne 01702 556470.

■ The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga: 10-11am; sit down yoga: 11.10-12.10; keep fit: Noon to 1pm; line dancing: 1.20-2.20pm; chess: 1.30-3.30pm and craft: 1.30-3.30. 01268 465854.

■ Singles Social Group – The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park,

Southend, age 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.

■ Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus – South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.

■ New and nearly new stall – outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, (if wet in church foyer), 10am-noon.

■ Table Top Sale – Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people with lung problems. 01702 258661.

■ Carpet Bowls – Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 1.45-3.45pm, no experience necessary, £2 per session, joining fee £5, first session free.

■ Bingo and Hov – Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.

■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Mencep) – Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities, aged 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.

■ Tuesday Luncheon Club – Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/525141/340617.

■ Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

■ Vange Tots – Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided for all. 01268 498642.

■ Shoebury Flagship – Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team with advice and support for parents with babies and children up to five years. 01702 577656.

Wednesday, May 27

■ Belvedere Jazz & Music Club, 8pm, The Chichester, Rawreth, SS11 8UE. 07850 697075.

■ Wickford Horticultural Society – monthly meeting, Catholic Church Hall, London Road, Wickford, 8pm. John Mead talking about summer hanging baskets. £1 members, £2 non-members, refreshments available also a raffle.

■ Pregnancy Yoga Class – Westwood Primary School, Hadleigh, 8-9pm. £6 per session. Details Linda 01702 552260.

■ Line dancing lessons – 12.30-2.30pm, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PA. 07948 108195.

■ Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

what's on

■ The Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh – 1.30-3pm. Caley Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.

■ Leigh Singles Social Club – 45-65s, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh. www.leighsingles.co.uk for details.

■ Activity Session for children with special needs, aged five to 18, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.

■ Graham's Social Tea Dance – Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet. Ballroom, Latin and sequence dances for all abilities. 2-4.25pm, free car park, strictly over-18s, £4 per person. 01268 752473.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Keep fit: 10-11am, sit down keep fit: 10-11am, salsa/ballroom: 11.30am-12.30pm, sequence dance: 12.30-1.15pm, art: 1.30-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 1.30-3.30pm, £2, 01268 465854.

■ Barn Dance – Grand Celdidh Club, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, live music, 8.30pm. 01702 553622.

■ Indoor Carpet Bowls, St Edmunds Hall, Partille Avenue, Southend, 2-4pm, details Olive 01702 625069.

■ Played Bowls Before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon, all-weather green, free coaching given, call Chris 01268 419831.

■ Breathing Exercise Group – run by Breathe Easy Basildon, Steeple View Memorial Hall, 1-2.30pm, if you have COPD or recently finished pulmonary rehabilitation call Honore 01268 574390.

■ Social afternoon of ballroom and Latin dancing – Mill Hall, Rayleigh, 1.45-4.15pm, with Pat and Bob. 01702 544112.

■ Health Walk – Canvey Sea Wall, 10.30am, meet Labworth car park, Canvey Island, details 01702 318121.

■ Alanon, International/Worldwide Support Group – for families, friends of alcoholics and other addicts, 1 Sutton Road, All Saints Church, Southchurch, Southend, 7.30pm, (non-denominational).

■ Pulse Drum Club – St David's Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 3.45pm-4.45pm, £3 per session. 01702 540111.

■ Over-50s session – Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh. Badminton and short mat bowls 2-4pm, £3.50 inc refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 773100.

■ Activity sessions – The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, for children with special needs, aged five to 18, free entry, siblings welcome, details 01268 779100.

■ Palace Writers Group – 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public

readings, details Emily 01702 390472.

■ Roche Art Group – St Teresa's Church Hall, behind the church, 109 Ashington Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, visitors welcome, details Gill 01702 421737.

■ Advanced Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre, over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am. 01268 465432.

■ Duplicate Bridge – Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh, 7.30pm, details Hilary 01702 712501.

■ Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.

■ Brentwood Buddies – new social club for ages 40-60, The Essex Arms, Warley Hill, Brentwood, 8pm. Contact Julie on 07969 071392 by text or phone before turning up.

Thursday, May 28

■ South Green Memorial Hall annual meeting – 8pm. Everyone welcome to view the hall improvements and suggest any further that could be made. Southend Road, Billericay, CM11 2PR.

■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

■ Thundersley Gardening Association – 7.45pm, Swans Green Hall, Hart Road, Thundersley, please bring exhibits, £3.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Line Dancing: 1-2pm, computer £3: 1-3.30pm, indoor bowls: 2.15-4.15pm, bridge 9.30am-12.30pm, ceramics, 1.30-3pm. £2, 01268 465854.

■ Health Walk – Hockley Woods, 10.45am, car parking in Hockley Woods car park, details 01702 318121.

■ Jive classes – Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 8pm, £5 (first night free), all ages welcome, no need to bring a partner. 07771 831507.

■ Buddies Over 50 Singles Club – Anchor Pub, Benfleet, 8.30pm, details Dee, 01268 565045.

■ Westcliff National Spiritualist Church – Hildaville Drive, Westcliff, mediums demonstrate clairvoyance, 7.30pm.

■ Pottery – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.

■ Coffee, cake and chat – WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, 2pm, details Di 07952 148636 or Linda 07504 114762.

■ Stalls in outpatients dept – next to post box, Southend Hospital, books, bric-a-brac, handknits etc, 8.30am-3.30pm, all proceeds to Key Hole Cancer Appeal.

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Motoring

Audi's plug-in hybrid leads the charge

By Ian Johnson

BEING at the wheel of the Audi A3 Sportback e-tron is driving the future.

This is the first plug-in hybrid to join the Audi range and it promises great things – like a potential 176mpg.

The car offers versatile power options. You can plug it in to a home socket or garage point to charge its batteries, use it as a hybrid in conjunction with its 1.4 petrol engine, or use the petrol engine on a long run to charge up the batteries to give around 30 miles of urban electric power – especially useful in congestion charged areas.

It ticks the box of offering zero local emissions driving without sacrificing range, but the beauty of this car is the amazing speed at which it charges its own batteries.

The e-tron removes a number of the stumbling blocks associated with electric or part-electric cars and takes the game way ahead of ordinary hybrids.

Priced at £34,950 (excluding UK government incentives which will reduce that by £5,000), this car is not cheap but it is so capable in a modern environment.

Electric power makes for amazing fuel economy and the scope for low CO2 emissions of 37g/km. But the trick is that Audi has managed it all without compromise to performance.

For instance a combined 204ps of system power and a good amount of torque adds



FUTURE MEETS PRESENT: Audi A3 Sportback e-tron 1.4 TFSI S tronic

up to 0-62mph in 7.6 seconds with a 137mph top speed. And you don't have to keep the electric power for getting around town.

This one gives a true 31 miles of electric power at up to 80mph which should be good enough to silence the harshest critics of electric vehicles.

As the price would suggest there is little to suggest skimping on this model with LED headlights, HDD navigation and Audi connect Internet-based services setting the scene for some enjoyable driving.

The A3 is the perfect springboard for Audi to enter the plug-in hybrid fray.

Being the 2014 World Car of the Year ensures that the model has some powerful

feathers in its cap as a spacious five-door compact hatchback. For the next few years at least, plug-in hybrids should make the running with their complete freedom from range limitations.

The modified 1.4-litre TFSI petrol engine features a peak power output of 150ps, and is linked by a clutch to a 75kw electric motor, which is integrated into a specially developed six-speed S tronic transmission sending power to the front wheels. Combined, the two power units generate 204ps.

There is also a function known as 'boosting' – by initiating kickdown of the S tronic transmission. In this mode the full 350Nm torque output is deployed for the strongest

FAST FACTS

Price: £34,950

Mechanical: 204ps, 1,398cc, four-cylinder petrol engine with electric motor driving front wheels via automatic gearbox

Max speed: 137mph

0-60mph: 7.6seconds

Combined mpg: 173

Insurance group: 29

CO2 emissions: 37g/km

BIK rating: 5%

Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

possible acceleration, but when the driver stops accelerating both motors temporarily deactivate, eliminating motor braking torque and allowing the car to glide to conserve fuel and recuperate energy.

Four key settings are available – the EV mode gives priority to electric drive, the hybrid auto mode is useful for long journeys as it engages the electric motor wherever possible, the hybrid hold mode preserves the electrical energy stored in the battery for later use and the hybrid charge mode uses the combustion engine as a generator to charge the battery. It all sounds complex, but in everyday use it could not be more simple.

What is more, the lightweight A3 responds beautifully to its controls. Definitely a car for today.



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BLUES ONE GAME AWAY

Promotion rests on weekend Wembley date against Wycombe

Southend United

Southend United 3 Stevenage 1
(Southend win 4-2 on aggregate at)
Brian Jeeves reporting from
Roots Hall Stadium

SOUTHEND United booked a Wembley play-off final date with Wycombe Wanderers after a pulsating extra-time victory over Stevenage.

There was nothing to separate the sides in Sunday's bruising first leg draw at the Lamex Stadium with respective bosses Phil Brown and Graham Westley cautiously optimistic that their sides could progress to Wembley.

On a damp evening Roots Hall was rocking with almost 9,000 crammed inside the old ground.

Brown boldly elected to go with two strikers, partnering Charlton Athletic loanee Joe Pigott with leading marksman Barry Corr as Stephen McLaughlin dropped to the bench.

With so much at stake there was unsurprisingly a nervousness amidst early exchanges. Blues were first to threaten, but David Worrall's deflected centre was expertly dealt with by Stevenage keeper Chris Day. Soon after, Day escaped when Will Atkinson's bomb of a cross slipped through his hands but was hacked to safety.

Blues continued to ask the early questions. Day did well to turn aside Worrall's low drive, then grasped Ben Coker's dangerous cross.

Meanwhile the visitors' best moments came via Ben Kennedy and former Shrimper David Martin from the left flank.

Blues should have taken the lead when Pigott's crisp effort beat Day, but fizzed the wrong side of an upright. At the other end Kennedy had Blues fans holding their breath but his strike hit the side netting.

As the half drew to a close, Irishman Corr passed up a glorious opportunity to give Blues the advantage, but the striker lifted his close range effort over Day but agonisingly off-target, this after Pigott had teed him up.

The competitive nature of the tie continued after the break. Day raced out to hack clear as Worrall bore down on goal, but when a goal finally came, it was the visitors who broke the deadlock.

Substitute Tom Pett was on hand to fire past Daniel Bentley, this after Dean Parrett's shot had deflected into his path off the unlucky Adan



ATTACK: Barry Corr attempts to chip

Photo by Dave Montier

Barrett. The home crowd were stunned. Cian Bolger almost restored parity but was denied by the legs of Day, this after Leonard and Coker had crafted the opening from the left, while referee Graham Scott waved away Blues appeals for a penalty after Pigott went down under pressure.

Day continued to thwart the home side. Stephen McLaughlin drove through a ruck of players, but the former QPR stopper was once again in inspired form to palm away.

But he could do little to stop the busy Leonard who fired high into the net to level things up after a sweeping move involving Corr and McLaughlin.

Roots Hall was now jumping. Pigott fired a speculative attempt wide after Corr had nodded on, while Coker was wayward after McLaughlin's dead-ball in had only been half-cleared.

Blues pressed for a decisive goal. Pigott poked wide after a melee in the Stevenage box, while the visitors rear-guard had to be on their mettle as McLaughlin probed menacingly.

But deep into stoppage time Blues were presented with, and subsequently missed, a wonderful chance to finish the tie. The marauding Leonard tangled with Pett, and referee Scott had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. The usually reliable Corr stepped up but clipped his attempt against the top of the bar.

Southend continued to waste

chances in extra-time. Day produced a brilliant block one-on-one from McLaughlin, then the keeper somehow kept out Corr with the heel of his boot. And when Leonard's snap-shot was deflected just over, it looked like it wasn't going to be the Blues night.

Man of the match Day continued to defy the Southend attack, saving at close quarters from Corr and Worrall in quick succession. But Blues were not to be denied.

Skipper John White sent over a delicious centre and McLaughlin dived headlong to beat Day and send Roots Hall into delirium.

Blues almost wrapped things up when Myles Weston guided past Day but could only look on as the ball drifted past a post. Stevenage threw everything forward in an attempt to save the match, but Blues defended resolutely. And in the final minute they booked their final date with Wycombe.

Sporting protective headwear following a horrific collision in the first leg which threatened to keep him on the sidelines, midfielder Michael Timlin waltzed through the Stevenage back line before beating Day with a honey of a strike.

Exuberant Blues fans streamed onto the pitch at full-time to celebrate the club's second Wembley trip in just over two years.

Manager Brown said: "It was a great spectacle, tonight was about

bottle in the end. People might have thought we'd bottled it when Barry Corr missed the penalty, but we maintained our focus throughout the game. We went a goal behind. We did the same on Sunday, it seemed to spark us and prick our conscience a wee bit.

"We always thought from a footballing term we would have been the better team, but I've got to give them credit, they were a fair challenge. It was a great battle."

Defender Coker said: "It was a crazy game if I'm honest, but we had the lion's share of the game. We had a lot of chances. I was just delighted when we scored the second goal."

"We've done it the hard way but the main thing is we've done it."

Southend United play Wycombe Wanderers at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, kick-off 5.30pm, with a place in League One the prize for the winners.

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White (capt), Ben Coker, David Worrall (Gary Deegan), Michael Timlin, Barry Corr, Will Atkinson (Stephen McLaughlin), Cian Bolger, Ryan Leonard, Adam Barrett, Joe Pigott (Myles Weston). Subs not used: Ted Smith, Luke Prosser, Jake Cassidy, Jack Payne.

Stevenage: Chris Day, Andy Bond, Chris Whelpdale (Tom Pett), Simon Walton (capt), Dean Parrett, Dean Wells, Chris Beardsley, Charlie Lee (Roarie Deacon), Jerome Okimo, Ben Kennedy, David Martin (Ronnie Henry). Subs: Dave Beasant, Jon Ashton, Calvin Zola, Tom Conlon.

Referee: Graham Scott.

Assistants: Mark Dwyer and Peter Wright

Fourth Official: Gary Sutton

Attendance: 8,998

Non-league round-up

Clarets shape up for season

by Brian Jeeves

CONFERENCE South outfit Chelmsford City have moved quickly to outline playing squad details for the 2015/16 campaign. Lee Sawyer, Marvin Ekpiteta, Mark Haines, Robert Girdlestone, Joe Ward and Jack Barham remain under contract at the Melbourne Stadium, while Michael Cheek, Mark Hughes, Harry Morgan, Hugo Skepeltorn, Mason Spence, Michael Toner and Jake Gordon have all been offered new deals.

Chelmsford have also announced dates for five tough away pre-season fixtures. The full schedule is as follows: Tuesday, July 7: Saffron Walden Town (7.45pm), Tuesday, July 14: Canvey Island (7.45pm), Tuesday, July 21: Heybridge Swifts (7.45pm), Saturday, July 25: Harlow Town (3pm), Saturday, August 1: Needham Market (3pm).

Meanwhile Essex Senior League club Basildon United have announced that Lee Connor has joined the club as assistant manager. Connor has considerable non-league experience and was the founder member of Perimo FC.

He will work with manager Craig Gillam as the Bees begin their plans for the 2015/16 season which gets under way on August 8.

Elsewhere in the Essex Senior League Hullbridge Sports are on the lookout for a new manager following the resignation of Mark Bliss. Bliss led the Lower Road outfit to a best ever fourth place finish in the ESL, with a record points haul. Coach Steve Tapley will also depart along with reserve team coaches Andy Burgess and Gavin Axcell.

Ryman League Division One North side Aveley have confirmed the line-up for the clubs pre-season tournament. The event will take place at Mill Field over the weekend of July 25 and 26, with Ryman Premier League Grays Athletic, Kent outfit Faversham Town and Clapton all competing for the trophy.

Canvey Island FC's annual Youth Tournament was hailed a success by club officials. A total of 110 teams took part over the course of the weekend with more than 2,500 supporters coming through the Prospects Stadium turnstiles.

Benfleet FC lions picked up the honours at under nines level, while Country Park Eagles were triumphant in the under 10s section.

The Gulls official website announced: "Thanks to all of the clubs who have travelled from all corners of the south east to take part in another very successful tournament. As a community focused club it is always very pleasing to see such a large amount of children using our facilities, and enjoying playing football in a fun and friendly environment. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2016."

Selected action in the Prokit UK Essex Olympian League saw Ross Webster and Callum Dopson find the net for Rayleigh Town in their Premier Division game with Springfield. However, it proved to be not enough as the visitors hit back to win 3-2. Elsewhere Harold Wood Athletic produced an impressive performance to see off Wadham Lodge 4-1, and in Division One Harold Hill thrashed Hutton by seven goals to one.

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